



RUTLAND

Worcester County

[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Rutland is a residential hill town which is the geographic center of the Commonwealth, and also the highest town between the Berkshires and the Atlantic. The town common is 1,200 feet above sea level. Rutland's original lands of about 12 square miles were purchased from natives in Natick's Indian Praying Town in 1686. Frontier hostilities delayed settlement and the land wasn't finally cut up until 1714 when 62 lots of 30 acres each were finally distributed. Settlers in Rutland came from older eastern towns, like Boston, Lexington, Concord and Sudbury. First settled in 1719, the town suffered repeated Indian attacks with the last death from Indian warfare recorded in 1724. There were about 1,000 people in town in 1765 when a disastrous epidemic of dysentery killed 60 children of the town.

The early economy included agriculture and grazing. The first gristmill was built on Mill Brook in 1719 and the town was the one of the earliest in the county to establish a subscription library, before 1796. Three small villages grew up around the water powered mills of the town by 1830 and there was small-scale production of chairs, carriages, and woodenware. A tannery was opened in the 1840's to supply local boot and shoe makers and palm leaf hats were produced in quantity. The town's fresh air and still rural environment drew increasing numbers of visitors and Rutland became a minor recreational and health resort in the 1880's. In 1883 Muschapogue House hotel was built. This development was followed by the building in 1898 of the Massachusetts Hospital for Consumptive and Tubercular Patients, a state prison camp and hospital as well as the opening of a handful of small private TB sanatoria. The town began catering to summer visitors with market garden produce and Finnish immigrants came to town from Worcester to farm. The state facilities and seasonal visitors provided a ready market for town produce. In 1923 a veterans' hospital was erected. When the Quabbin Reservoir was created, many of Rutland's industrial buildings were razed, but the jobs created by state facilities took up much of the loss. A three-mile long tunnel underneath Rutland was dug to carry water from Colbrook Springs in Oakham to West Boylston and Wachusett Reservoir.

(Seal supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Princeton on the northeast, Holden on the east, Paxton on the southeast, Oakham on the southwest, and Barre and Hubbardston on the northwest. Rutland is about 13 miles northwest of Worcester, 52 miles west of Boston, and 181 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 36.41 sq. miles

Land Area: 35.26 sq. miles

Population: 4,936

Density: 140 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Barre Falls Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.0°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Wachusett Mt., Paxton, Barre, North Brookfield

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 886-4103

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1713

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,831		
Democrats	708	25.0	%
Republicans	475	16.8	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,648	58.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Rutland town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,353	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,353	100.0
Male.....	3,209	50.5	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	84	1.3
Female.....	3,144	49.5	Mexican.....	6	0.1
Under 5 years.....	506	8.0	Puerto Rican.....	35	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	567	8.9	Cuban.....	3	-
10 to 14 years.....	581	9.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	40	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	441	6.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,269	98.7
20 to 24 years.....	247	3.9	White alone.....	6,084	95.8
25 to 34 years.....	883	13.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,265	19.9	Total population.....	6,353	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	891	14.0	In households.....	6,231	98.1
55 to 59 years.....	306	4.8	Householder.....	2,253	35.5
60 to 64 years.....	179	2.8	Spouse.....	1,445	22.7
65 to 74 years.....	251	4.0	Child.....	2,154	33.9
75 to 84 years.....	171	2.7	Own child under 18 years.....	1,769	27.8
85 years and over.....	65	1.0	Other relatives.....	140	2.2
Median age (years).....	34.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	50	0.8
18 years and over.....	4,399	69.2	Nonrelatives.....	239	3.8
Male.....	2,150	33.8	Unmarried partner.....	130	2.0
Female.....	2,249	35.4	In group quarters.....	122	1.9
21 years and over.....	4,208	66.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	594	9.3	Noninstitutionalized population.....	122	1.9
65 years and over.....	487	7.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	219	3.4	Total households.....	2,253	100.0
Female.....	268	4.2	Family households (families).....	1,694	75.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	952	42.3
One race.....	6,268	98.7	Married-couple family.....	1,445	64.1
White.....	6,136	96.6	With own children under 18 years.....	798	35.4
Black or African American.....	66	1.0	Female householder, no husband present.....	193	8.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	123	5.5
Asian.....	29	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	559	24.8
Asian Indian.....	2	-	Householder living alone.....	449	19.9
Chinese.....	3	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	149	6.6
Filipino.....	2	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	998	44.3
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	365	16.2
Korean.....	5	0.1	Average household size.....	2.77	(X)
Vietnamese.....	4	0.1	Average family size.....	3.21	(X)
Other Asian ¹	11	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,392	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,253	94.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	139	5.8
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	76	3.2
Some other race.....	28	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	85	1.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.7	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	2,253	100.0
White.....	6,217	97.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,793	79.6
Black or African American.....	92	1.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	460	20.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	31	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.99	(X)
Asian.....	52	0.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.89	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	51	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 56, 68, 122, and 122A.

Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Rutland, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Rutland is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.